

Oregon Rally News

The Monthly Publication of the Oregon Rally Group

March 1998

Vol. 2, No 3

World Rally Update

by Robert Mahony

Monte Carlo

Website: http://www.acm.mc/eng_ra.html



After a very short break a new World Rally Championship started in the mountains of southern France. One of the most difficult aspects of the Monte Carlo is the extreme conditions that competitors face -- not that the conditions are extremes like Sweden or the Safari, but the weather and therefore the type of surface the teams are competing on changes. Tire choices are crucial in this event as conditions can change from dry asphalt to ice to snow within one special stage.

The first day was quite wet with lots of snow on higher altitudes. At the start of the event Didier Auriol was the man to beat, setting fastest time on the opening stage. However, a 'bold' tire choice went to pieces on the second stage where he had an off and damaged the steering of the Corolla. Tommi Makinen took the lead for the remaining four stages of the day, his speed owed to good tire choices. At the end of the day Makinen led by 1:08 over Sainz. Piero Liatti, last years' winner, was third followed by Burns and McRae and the Ford duo of Kankkunen and Thiry. Auriol had another off on SS6, damaging his suspension and falling to 51st place. For the remainder of the rally he played the role of tire tester for Sainz.



Monte Carlo Rally Winner Carlos Sainz

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From the President

by Mike Nagle

The rally season is now in full swing. Plan your calendar to take advantage of all the rally opportunities. The Cascade Friday Night TSD series is underway. Events are held the first Friday evening of each month, beginning 6pm at the Northwest corner of the Mall 205 parking lot.

The PRO Rally nationals are in the Northwest, with the Doo Wop and Wild West events taking place on the weekends of 3/14 and 4/18 respectfully. Plan to travel north to Olympia and Shelton with the rest of us. Remember to bring the camera!

Chris Portal is stage captain for the Oregon contingent on Saturday at the Doo Wop this weekend, but we all get Sunday off to spectate the rally! We also take over Brewcity Pizza on Saturday evening in Tumwater to shoot the rally breeze. Give Chris a call for times and places.

(503) 371-1125 (home) E-mail: clportal@teleport.com

The Oregon Trail Rally is coming together. Your involvement will help. We also need more sponsors to donate door prizes. Find new recruits. You know the manpower items that every event needs. We want the best event possible. Come to the next meeting on the 19th. See you out there.

Editorial License

by Andrew Hilmer

You may not know me, but that should change over the next few months. I've been working controls and helping out with Northwest and Oregon region pro rallies for almost three years, and I'm thrilled with the chance to help out the organizers by doing this newsletter. I hope to build on Ben Bradley's work and continue to provide car crazies with information on the Oregon Rally Group, our events, and rallying in general.

Even though I've worked the last couple years as a writer, this is the first time I've had a chance to work on a "fun" publication. Technical writing is pretty dry stuff, so I have a lot of repressed wordsmithing to inflict on ORG members. In addition to laying out the newsletter, I will be writing an editorial and at least one feature every month.

To make the newsletter as interesting and informative as possible, we need photographs, schedules, event coverage, how-to articles, sponsorship, classified advertisements, anything you can think of. Imagine my hands gripping your lapels, asking "did you take any photos at the Doo Wops? What do you know about so-and-so's off on stage X?" I will be at the events with my notepad, so if you have something interesting, seek me out. Pass along photos, articles, impressions, and scores. The newsletter is not restricted to any particular size.

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(Editorial, continued)

In the future, I would like to fill out the schedules with contact information. A classified section will be added. It would be great to get sponsors and other advertising as well.

I would like to make the deadline for submissions the final Friday of each month. That would make the next deadline the 27th of March. Deadlines will remain flexible for at least the next couple issues.

Let me know what you think about *Oregon Rally News*. I hope to see you at the events.

ORG Minutes, 2/19/98

General

The Oregon Rally Group met for its February meeting on Thursday the 19th, 7 p.m., at the GE Service Center. In attendance were Ben Bradley, Tony Dienstel, Forrest Farrington, Mike Glass, Chris Hale, Andrew Hilmer, Chris Kouba, Todd Lengacher, Robert Mahony, Mike Nagle, Rich Olmstead, Chris Portal, Margaret Thornton, Dave Tow, and the Tabor Rally Team, including Jon, Mark, Janice, and Kristen. The meeting was chaired by President Mike Nagle. Minutes were recorded by Ben Bradley and Andrew Hilmer.

The AGM minutes were approved.

There were no Treasurer or Membership reports.

Events Report

Race Central Swap Meet The Oregon Rally Group's participation in the Race Central swap meet went well. Our booth sold Rallysport gear, showed videos, and answered questions.

Northwest Region Workers Party The evening was a success. The party was attended by about 150 people, including plenty of workers. The food was great. The rally videos were a big hit as usual. Worker awards were bestowed, including quite a few sponsored awards. Throughout the evening, a large number of door prizes were handed out. Few rallyists left empty handed.

Northwest Region Meeting The proposal to withhold points for non-NWR events was rendered moot for the Oregon Rally Group by the transfer of the Reno rally to the California Region.

Doo Wops I/II This was a successful, well-attended, safe event. It had its share of excitement, with some dinged cars and 4 rollovers, but the participants seemed to have a lot of fun.

Communications Update Following up on a proposal discussed in January, discussion continued on how to help people get ham radio licenses. The current edition (red cover) of "Now You're Talking" is available at electronics stores like Radio Shack. Rich Olmstead has videos, and if we can get enough people together, we can organize a two day, professionally taught class. Rich recommends we use all three approaches. On April 4th, tests will be given at a ham radio swap meet at the Clark County Fairgrounds in Vancouver. The weekend of March 20 was proposed as a time to get together, study, and watch the videos.

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(World Rally Update, continued)

The first stage of the second day saw Tommi Makinen become the first and only major retirement of the event. "I was just too fast," he admitted after hitting a bridge railing and dropping into a brook. Tommi and his co-driver Risto Mannisenamki were unhurt. Sainz and Kankkunen moved to first and second on the first stage, due to good tire choices. The pair dominated the remainder of the day. In the evening, Sainz led Kankkunen by 55 seconds. The sole remaining Mitsubishi of Richard Burns, on his first Monte Carlo, was an impressive third.

The Subaru 555 team, the only WRC team using Pirelli rubber, battled continuously on the wet and icy conditions of the first two days. This changed on the third day with lower altitudes and warmer weather. The Subarus were faster on the dry asphalt and were able to move up. This led to an exciting battle for third place between McRae, Latti (separated by a mere nine-tenths of a second as they went into the final stage), and Burns. Back at the front, Sainz took the win in his first outing for Toyota in the Corolla WRC. He has now equaled the record set by Kankkunen (who finished second) for 21 WRC wins. Colin McRae finished third ahead of teammate Piero Latti with Richard Burns fifth.

Swedish Rally

Website: <http://www.swerally.se/>



The Swedish Rally is the only real winter rally in the WRC Championship. The 19 special stages run on a mixture of snow, ice, and gravel. A route through forests, harbors, and on frozen lakes provide drama at every turn.

The Swedish rally has never been won by a non-Scandinavian driver, and it was a Swede who dominated the first day of the race. Thomas Radstrom, equipped with a TTE backed Toyota Corolla, won six of the days eight stages. In fact, Toyota took 4 of the top 7 positions at the end of leg one. Tommi Makinen was the only who could keep up with Radstrom, taking second. Colin McRae and Kenneth Eriksson complained of lacking power in their Subarus. This was Kenneth's last race with Subaru as he has signed to drive a Hyundai (similar to the Hyundai driven by Paul Choiniere) for the remaining WRC rounds.

Melting snow made the second day very slushy and SS 12, the longest stage of the rally at 47 km, changed the whole lineup. Radstrom's domination of the event ended when he went off damaging the radiator. Colin McRae went out with electrical problems. Carlos Sainz spun the car in 6th gear, hit "something," but managed to keep going. The new leader, Tommi Makinen, lead Juha Kankkunen by 1:23 -- both Mitsubishi and Ford were using Michelin's new asymmetric GE snow tire. Sainz followed closely behind with Eriksson and Auriol completing the top five.

On the last day of the rally Tommi Makinen had no problems holding his lead. At the finish line, four different manufacturers took the top four places. Sainz took his Corolla home in second place after Kankkunen's Escort hit a snow bank on SS17, putting the Ford in third. Kenneth Eriksson was fourth, scoring valuable points for Subaru. Toyota took 5th and 6th with Marcus Gronholm in a Celica GT4 and Didier Auriol in a Corolla WRC. Richard Burns of Mitsubishi was incredibly fast on his first Swedish Rally, winning three stages, but finished 15th due to an accident on the first day.



Swedish Rally Winner Tommi Makinen

1998 FIA World Rally Championship

Standings After 2 of 14 Rounds

Drivers Carlos Sainz (16), Juha Kankkunen (10), Tommi Makinen (10), Colin McRae (4), Piero Latti (3), Kenneth Eriksson (3), Richard Burns (2), Marcus Gronholm (2), Bruno Thiry (1), Didier Auriol (1)

Manufacturers Toyota (16), Mitsubishi (12), Ford (11), Subaru (10)

For April

Rally reports from Kenya (Safari) and Portugal.

(Minutes, continued)

Rich made the point that it is not necessary to spend hundreds of dollars on a big stack of shiny new gear. There is enough extra equipment floating around that you can be useful to our events by just bringing your license. If you must buy your own equipment, remember that used equipment works just fine if it is in good condition. The latest features are nice but not necessary.

For more information about study sessions and the class, contact Rich Olmstead

Oregon Trail Rally Update Mike Nagle has had positive discussions with the landowners, with only a couple of issues regarding the layout and a possible fee.

The rally day itinerary and pre-event timeline is coming together, with a few possibilities remaining to be explored for the service area, concessions, and a car wash. Members are urged to look for sponsors. If you have ideas, do some promotion. For more information, contact Mike Nagle.

There are enough officials to make the event happen, but there is plenty of opportunity for people to assist and learn the ropes of putting on a PRO Rally.

Washougal Rallysprint Update The course has been laid out. The tentative date is October 16th. More details about the cost and a yes/no decision will come at the end of March.

Rallycross Since rallycross can be run in unprepared cars with only seat belts and helmets for safety gear, it has a great potential for popularity as autocross. The only restriction is that the requirements for the courses are stricter than for PRO Rally prepared cars. Basically, the course needs to be an open, flat, unobstructed area. This is a problem when considering the traditional venues for rallysprints. However, this does not necessarily mean that there are fewer possible sites. Any flat field or sod parking lot will do. Keep in mind that the rally will tear the ground up a bit, so some facilities may not even consider allowing us to use their property.

If you have any ideas for sites, contact Rich Olmstead.

ORG Yearly To put together an annual for the year, we need photos. Take your camera to events. Even if you are working a control, you may have opportunities to take photos on the grid, at the fun runs, and at the banquet. We can take advantage of the yearly tech to photograph each car. Remember, pictures don't necessarily have to show the cars. PRO Rally is also about the crews, the workers, and the spectators.

Mike Nagle would like the members to take the opportunity to come up with sponsors for the annual. Any amount is acceptable. Talk to car dealerships, repair shops, speed shops, parts stores, and anyone else that might think PRO Rally is neat.

Other Business

Auto Show Booth Mike Nagle has suggested that we get a booth at the Portland Auto Show.

Newsletter The newsletter should contain as much information as possible. This will require submissions of articles, photographs, schedules, scores, etc. Deadlines TBD.

Listserv The suggestion was made to create an email listserv for ORG discussion. More details in the next meeting.

Oregon Trail Date The discussion about the Oregon Trail date was informally reopened. Some members were still concerned about conflicts with the June 6th date. However, the negotiations with the landowners are firming up, none of the conflicts seem likely to sink the event, and the general consensus was that it was too late in the year to change the date. The club will analyze the results of the event and decide this fall whether a Rose Festival date should be considered for next year.

Bend Event ORG members are still investigating the possibility of running an event on BLM lands in the Bend area.

The Oregon Rally Group

P.O. Box 82443
Portland, OR 97282-0443

President	Mike Nagle.....	(503) 244-8570
VP Membership.....	Catherine Roso.....	(503) 286-5476
VP Events	Rich Olmstead	(360) 574-8593
Treasurer.....	Simon Levear.....	(503) 598-8588
Secretary.....	Andrew Hilmer.....	(541) 754-3614

Send submissions to:
Andrew Hilmer
BX 2242
Corvallis OR 97339-2242

hilmera@dnc.net

Oregon Rally News

Snapshot of Doo Wop III & IV, March 13-15

With the cancellation of Snodrift, Doo Wop organizers are planning for a much heavier turnout than usual, possibly 40+ entrants. It should be a very competitive event!

The Oregon Rally Group will handle two spectator stages on the C-line on Saturday, so we will need plenty of road marshals to make the course safe. Bring your lawn chairs, cameras, and CB. We will be meeting at the Porter Tavern at 10 am.

The ORG is not scheduled to work on Sunday for Doo Wop IV, so we will have a great opportunity to spectate.

See "From the President" on page 1.

Coming April 17-18, The Wild West National

Northwest Adventure Rally

The Pacific Coast Challenge

The Road Not Taken..... Grande Ronde OR.... Aug 8-9
Night on Bald Mountain..... WA Sep 26-27
Totem..... BC interior..... Oct 24-25

BC Rally Championship

Gold Miner..... BC interior..... July 11-12
Totem..... BC interior..... Oct 24-25
Midnight..... Vancouver Island Nov 7-8
AlCan 5000 Summer Rally..... BC-Alaska Aug 29-Sep5

Local and National SCCA PRO Rally

† Doo Wop III & IV..... Shelton, WA Mar 13-14
‡ Wild West Shelton, WA Apr 17-18
‡ Rim of the World Palmdale, CA May 8-9
* Oregon Trail Portland, OR June 6
‡ Susquehannock Trail Wellsboro, PA June 5-6
‡ Maine Forest Summer..... Rumford, ME July 31-Aug1
ORV Rallysprint I & II..... Elma, WA Aug 1-2
‡ Ojibwe Forests Bernidji, MN Aug 28-29
‡ Prescott Forest..... Prescott, AZ Oct 2-3
* Oregon Rallysprint..... Washougal, WA Oct 16
‡ Lake Superior..... Houghton, MI Oct 23-24
† Tour de Forest/Dryad Quest .. Shelton WA Nov TBA
* ORG event, † National points, ‡ National event

Cascade Sports Car Club TSD Events

Friday Night Rally Series..... \$15, Mall 205, 6 pm Apr 3
..... \$15, Mall 205, 6 pm May 1
..... \$15, Mall 205, 6 pm June 5
Mountains to the East TBA July 18
TSD, possible lap of PIR..... TBA Aug 15
Ghoul's Gambol XXXII..... TBA Oct 30

Next ORG Rally Meeting

Thursday, March 19th, 7:00 pm, GE Service Center,
2727 N.W. 29th, Portland OR

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